

Open Engagement

2018 — SUSTAINABILITY

MAY 11–13, 2018

Queens, New York

For Immediate Release

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Queens, NY — After a decade, Open Engagement (OE) — an annual, itinerant, artist-led conference — will hold its final convening May 11–13, 2018 at the Queens Museum and a constellation of sites across the city. This year's conference will feature presenters including **Lucy Lippard** and **Mel Chin**.

Open Engagement 2018—SUSTAINABILITY Registration open NOW! Passes to the international conference on art and social practice are for sale online.

Open Engagement has become a critical site of convening around socially engaged art. OE began as, and remains, a grassroots artist-led and artist-organized conference dedicated to creating a site of care for the field and supporting artists, activists, administrators, educators, and cultural workers who are engaged in transforming the world through creativity and radical imagination. OE is the only conference on this subject of this scale that operates on an inclusive open call model, supports emerging and established artists, and collaborates closely with national institutions to further the networks of support for socially engaged art.

Now in its 10th year — the last in its current form — OE will bring together hundreds of artists, activists, educators, students, organizations, institutions, and thinkers from every corner of the globe. This year's program will explore the theme of SUSTAINABILITY, as well as take stock of the field of socially engaged art and practice. The core organizing team will use 2019 as an exploratory year, to assess the needs of the field and how best to continue crafting a site of care for socially-engaged art and its practitioners.

OE 2018 will feature a selection of focused trainings to provide attendees with skills and tools to help better address creative work at the complex intersection of art and social justice, as well as opportunities for intimate discussion during our Dinner Conversation Series. In the evenings, femme-fronted, queer-inclusive nightlife organizers will host celebrations, guided by the belief that transformative acts of change are deeply indebted to these marginal spaces of collective joy. OE is working with partners spanning New York City's five boroughs to represent the work being done at the intersection of art and activism across the city. Current partners include: A Blade of Grass, Bureau of General Services, Queer Division, Downtown Art / Fourth Arts Block, Interference Archive, International Center for Photography (ICP), Knockdown Center, Lesbian Herstory Archives, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, No Longer Empty, Recess, Social Justice Tours, Studio Museum, and Swale.

In anticipation of the conference, The Metropolitan Museum will host a full day of pre-conference programming on Thursday, May 10th including panel discussions, break-out sessions and performance.

This year OE will offer a sliding scale registration fee ranging starting at \$75. We also encourage folks who cannot attend the conference (due to scheduling or other non-financial reasons) to consider making a donation of any size. Your contribution will enable us to subsidize the cost of attendance for current presenters and those in need.

Open Engagement 2018 — SUSTAINABILITY is presented in partnership with The Queens Museum, and marks the final year of a three-year cycle that situated the conference in the Bay Area (2016 — POWER) in partnership with the Oakland Museum of California and the California College of the Arts, and in Chicago (2017—JUSTICE) in partnership with The University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Art and Art History.

To register and see more information about the 2018 conference, visit [OE online](#) and follow OE on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).



Nurturing Socially
Engaged Art

A BLADE OF GRASS

